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XXXIX. *A Letter from Mr. Emanuel Mendes da Costa, Librarian, &c. to the Royal Society, to M. Maty, M. D. Sec. R. S. containing a Supplement to the Account of the Discovery of Native Tin, Art. VII.*

Dear Sir,

Read Dec. 18, 1766. I Communicate to you the following paragraph from a letter written to me by the Rev. William Borlase, L L. D. and F. R. S. of Ludgvan, near Penzance, in Cornwall, and bearing date November 23 last past. As it is a paragraph relative to the native tin found in Cornwall, which I had the honour to communicate to the Royal Society on the 6th of March last, and is ordered to be printed; permit me to beg of you to read it at the meeting to-morrow, that, if judged worthy by the Committee of papers, it may be printed with the former paper as a part of it.

I am, with great respect,

SIR,

your very obliged

humble servant,

Royal Society house,
December 17, 1766.

Emanuel Mendes da Costa.

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EXTRACT.

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“ Mr. Henry Rosewarne, of Truro, says, that
“ when he sent the first specimen (presented to the
“ Royal Society by me William Borlase, and now
“ lodged in their Museum) he mentioned as a proof
“ of its being native tin, that between the ore and the
“ tin there was a mixture of quartz: but, upon a
“ nearer examination and some trials with aqua fortis,
“ he and another person found it was not quartz. At
“ last, on melting a piece, he perceived no small
“ quantity of arsenic to be mixed with it, and there-
“ fore suspected that the white parts which had
“ passed for quartz were nothing but arsenic. Accord-
“ ingly he scraped off a little of it and put it on a red
“ hot iron, where it immediately caught fire, and
“ evaporated into smoke, leaving behind it the most
“ poisonous stench they ever smelt. This confirmed
“ some, who had hitherto doubted, in the most
“ firm belief that it really was native tin and genuine,
“ it being impossible for tin to be melted and the
“ arsenic left untouched.”